

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01     BERLIN 06611 020758Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 081347

R 011520Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3180

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USBERLIN

USMISSION USNATO

S E C R E T BERLIN 6611

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GE, GW, US

SUBJECT: REPORT ON AMBASSADOR COOPER'S MEETING WITH HONECKER

REF: BERLIN 6583

1. AS IT HAS BEEN THE CUSTOM OF THE US/UK EMBASSIES AND THE FRG REPRESENTATION TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER UPON ANY TALKS WITH SECRETARY GENERAL HONECKER, I TALKED TODAY (AUGUST 31) WITH AMBASSADOR CRADDOCK OF THE UK, AND FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE GAUS, PROVIDING THEM WITH SUCH PORTIONS OF MY TALK WITH HONECKER AS I THOUGHT APPROPRIATE.

2. I TOLD AMBASSADOR CRADDOCK ABOUT HONECKER'S DESCRIPTION OF HIS MEETING WITH BREZHNEV, SPECIFICALLY HIS STATEMENT THAT HE AND BREZHNEV HAD REACHED COMPLETE AGREEMENT ON ALL DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND CONTINUED SUPPORT OF A POLICY OF DETENTE AND BETTERMENT OF RELATIONS WITH NON-SOCIALIST STATES; HONECKER'S STATEMENT THAT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO CALM DOWN INCIDENTS ON THE BERLIN AND FRG/GDR BORDERS. AMBASSADOR CRADDOCK ASKED  
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02     BERLIN 06611 020758Z

ME IF HONECKER HAD SAID ANYTHING ABOUT THE ALLIES

PROTEST OR THE EXCHANGE OF NOTES ON THE QA ANNIVERSARY. I RESPONDED THAT HE HAD NOT MENTIONED EITHER OF THESE MATTERS. AS TO US/GDR RELATIONS, I NOTED HIS EMPHASIS ON EXPANDED TRADE. I MENTIONED THAT I HAD TOLD HONECKER THAT THE US EXPECTED PROGRESS ON THE CONSULAR CONVENTION, WITHOUT A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY, AND ON HUMANITARIAN CASES.

3. I HAD AN HOUR'S TALK WITH GAUS AND HE TOOK NOTES ON MY STATEMENTS. I TOLD HIM THE GENERAL CONTENT OF OUR DISCUSSION OF US/GDR RELATIONS AS REPORTED IN BERLIN 6583. HE WAS INTERESTED IN MY STATEMENT TO HONECKER THAT THE US EXPECTED PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATION OF THE CONSULAR CONVENTION WITHOUT A DEFINITION OF NATIONALITY, AND PROGRESS IN HUMANITARIAN CASES. I DID NOT MENTION TO GAUS HONECKER'S STATEMENT ABOUT EMIGRATION OF OLDER PEOPLE TO JOIN THEIR FAMILIES IN THE US; HIS STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD EXAMINE THE QUESTION OF EXIT PERMITS IN CASES OF TRAGEDY, NOR HIS STATEMENT REGARDING THE JEWISH MATERIAL CLAIMS COMMITTEE.

4. GAUS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN HONECKER'S REPORT ON HIS MEETING WITH BREZHNEV AND HIS STATEMENT ON THE BORDER INCIDENTS. HE ASKED IF I HAD RAISED THE LATTER SUBJECT, AND I RESPONDED THAT HONECKER HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE. GAUS TOLD ME THAT HE HAD PASSED HONECKER'S STATEMENT ON BORDER INCIDENTS TO CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT AND THAT BOTH DESIRED TO PREVENT INCIDENTS AND TO RESTORE CLAM. I ASKED GAUS IF HE THOUGHT THAT HONECKER COULD CONTROL THE SITUATION. GAUS RESPONDED "I THINK SO", BUT THAT HE BELIEVES HONECKER HAS OPPOSITION IN THE GDR LEADERSHIP. IN EXPLANATION OF THIS STATEMENT GAUS SAID THAT HONECKER HAD TOLD HIM THAT HE WOULD DO ALL POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE RESTRAINT BUT SAID "I NEED HELP." GAUS SAID HE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE A REQUEST FOR RESTRAINT ON THE FRG SIDE, BUT HE ALSO THOUGHT IT MEANT THAT HE NEEDED SUCH FRG RESTRAINT TO SUPPORT HONECKER'S POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT WITHIN THE GDR LEADERSHIP. GAUS THOUGHT HONECKER'S TALK WITH ME COULD HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH HIS WON TALK WITH HONECKER AND THAT HONECKER WISHED TO CONVEY TO THE USG

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03     BERLIN 06611 020758Z

HIS POSITION ON BORDER INCIDENTS.

5. GAUS ASKED ME ABOUT ANY COMMENTS HONECKER MIGHT HAVE MADE ON THE TRANSIT ISSUE OR ALLIED PROTEST. I TOLD HIM THAT HE HAD NOT MADE ANY COMMENTS. I TOLD HIM THAT I HAD SAID TO HONECKER THAT I HAD NO COMPETENCE ON MATTERS AFFECTING FRG/GDR RELATIONS OR THE QA, BUT THAT I DID TELL HONECKER THAT SUCH INCIDENTS,

INVOLVING CONFRONTATIONS AND VIOLENCE, WERE MATTERS OF DEEP CONCERN.

6. AT A RECEPTION GIVEN BY THE CZECH AMBASSADOR FOR THE BANGLADESH AMBASSADOR WHO IS LEAVING FOR KUWAIT, SOVIET DCM GROMYKO CAME UP TO ME. AFTER THE USUAL GREETINGS HE SAID THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY HAD BEEN VERY BUSY, AND WOULD BE VERY BUSY DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, BECAUSE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE QA; THAT THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERED THAT IT WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT TO AFFIRM THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS AGREEMENT BUT IT DID NOT APPEAR THAT THE OTHER PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT HELD THE SAME VIEW. I DID NOT RESPOND TO HIS STATEMENT. HE THEN ASKED ME WHEN I WAS LEAVING. HE SAID THE SOVIET AMBASSADOR WANTED TO SEE ME BEFORE I LEFT AND THAT THE SOVIET EMBASSY WOULD BE CALLING NEXT WEEK. COOPER

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, BRIEFINGS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 01 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** coburnhl  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BERLIN06611  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760333-0077  
**From:** BERLIN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t197609103/aaaadkog.tel  
**Line Count:** 132  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** 76 BERLIN 6583  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** coburnhl  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 07 APR 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <07 APR 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <29 JUL 2004 by coburnhl>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORT ON AMBASSADOR COOPER'S MEETING WITH HONECKER  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, GC, GE, US, UK, FR, (COOPER, JOHN SHERMAN), (HONECKER, ERICH)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006